URGENT: Imminent Death Threat of the Entire EUC Industry

alienrides lawsuit inventist

By WheelGoodTime
January 28 in General Discussion

Reply to this topic

Popular Post

WheelGood Time
Posted January 28

Mod edit: status update as of 28Apr2026 below:

> **On 4/28/2026 at 9:24 PM, RagingGrandpa said:**
>
> Ok, I did some fact-finding on my own and found the answers:
>
> 1. Which party (attorney etc) is acting on behalf of Shane Chen? - Ben Hodges
> 2. Which party is acting on behalf of Alienrides? - Ben Hodges
> 3. What is OUII and what is their interest in this claim? - OUII is the office of unfair import investigations, a neutral third party who oversees the progress of this investigation and ensures that there is no foul play happening and everyone is playing by the rules. OUII has the power to influence the judge to make major decisions.
> 4. What is the next step in the legal process? - A pre-trial hearing would be a few weeks away, but typically the involved parties use this time to negotiate amongst eachother in order to reach an agreement that would avoid trial. Such negotiations happen behind

> closed doors, so we aren't likely to get any specific news until they sign an agreement.

Also, as of Apr 27th 2026, Inmotion ('s attorney) and Inventist (Ben Hodges) have agreed to a Stay of the court timeline for this case. It means more time for out-of-court negotiations.
All official updates from the court are shown in EDIS.

—

BOTTOM LINE UPFRONT (BLUF) A federal investigation (**ITC Docket No. 3877**) has been initiated to **permanently ban** nearly all electric unicycles (EUCs) from entering the United States. This filing, led by Inventist and Alien Technology Group (dba Alien Rides), targets **InMotion, Begode, LeaperKim, KingSong, and Nosfet**. Because the USA is the largest global market for EUCs, a total U.S. cutoff is predicted to cause a **global industry collapse**, leading to the bankruptcy of manufacturers and the loss of all EUC-related jobs in America. **Public action is required by February 3, 2026.**

Reference links are provided at the end of this post. I will provide a follow-up post with suggested templates and step-by-step instructions to submit your public comments to prevent this from happening.

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1. The 2021 Private Monopoly Agreement

The current crisis stems from a private alliance formed in 2021. Shane Chen (Inventist) and Kevin Grandon (Alien Rides) entered into an agreement where Inventist designated Alien Rides as the **sole licensed importer and manufacturer** of gyroscopic vehicles using Chen's U.S. Patent No. 8,807,250 (the "'250 patent"). By filing this complaint under **Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930**, they are attempting to use federal trade law to enforce a private monopoly, effectively banning all competitors who do not pay a "private tax" or royalty to their partnership.

2. The Global Existential Threat

Electric unicycles are a specialized, high-tech industry. Manufacturers like **Begode, InMotion, LeaperKim, KingSong, and Nosfet** rely on the U.S. market for the vast majority of their financial solvency.

- **The Fallout:** Unlike massive automotive corporations, these manufacturers operate on thin R&D margins; a near-immediate cutoff from their primary revenue source threatens the survival of the entire sector.

- **Global Impact:** There is no viable secondary market that allows these companies to survive the loss of the United States. If the USA market closes, the global supply of wheels and spare parts will inevitably vanish for everyone, including riders in Europe, Australia, and Asia.

3. The "Domestic Industry" Mirage

To win an import ban, the complainants must prove they are a "Domestic Industry" capable of serving U.S. demand. However, their actual infrastructure does not match their claims:

- **Infrastructure Deficit:** Industry standards for manufacturing and warehousing a single EUC manufacturer's national supply require at least **20,000+ square feet**. The Alien Rides facility (located at 2256 Palou Ave, San Francisco) is a shared retail showroom, repair shop, and small warehouse of **less than 5,000 square feet in total**. They physically lack the capacity to support the requirements of one single manufacturer, much less the entire EUC industry.

- **Operational Failure:** Alien Rides has largely retreated from active importation. Their own website presently (as of January 28, 2026) lists flagship models as "Sold Out" or in "perpetual Pre-order," confirming they lack the warehouse space and funding to satisfy the current U.S. market for sales—let alone the entire industry's demand for manufacturing as well.

4. The Legal Shield: The 2025 Ruling

On **November 14, 2025**, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled in **Case 24-1010** (*Inventist v. Ninebot*) that modern EUC designs featuring recessed or integrated side surfaces **do not infringe** the '250 patent. This ITC filing is a clear attempt to bypass that higher court decision to secure a forced monopoly that the courts have already signaled is non-existent for modern wheel designs.

5. The "Private Tax" on Riders

These filings are often used to force manufacturers into "licensing fees" to avoid a total ban. If manufacturers are forced to pay a royalty (historically 30%) to avoid being blocked at the border, those costs are passed directly to you. You will either pay **massive price increases per wheel,** or you won't be able to buy one at all.

VERIFIED PUBLIC DOCUMENTATION:

- **Official ITC Notice (Jan 26, 2026):** Federal Register - Docket No. 3877

- **The 2025 Court Ruling Clearing EUCs from the '250 Patent:** CAFC Case 24-1010 Opinion
- **The '250 Patent in Question**: Google Patents - US8807250B2

mod edit: All documents and responses related to this case are visible here (requires free login): https://edis.usitc.gov/external/search/basic.html?invNum=337-1488

UPDATE

I am issuing an important plea for course correction regarding our response to the ITC filing against the global EUC industry. I previously requested that everyone flood the Commission with "Public Interest Statements." While those statements show our passion, I am shifting that request today based on a deeper look at the legal mechanics of the ITC.

The reality is that public interest pleas—no matter the volume—almost never stop an investigation from being instituted. And that is our goal: to end this brazen cash-grab attempt before it even gets to the courtroom. If we want to kill this sham attempt to monopolize our industry before the public comment period ends on February 3rd, we must pivot immediately. We need to stop telling the ITC why we need our wheels and start proving that the Complainants lack the legal standing to even bring this case in the first place. I request that we shift our strategy to filing "Comments on the Complaint." This is the high-level legal window where we attack their standing and their "Domestic Industry" claims. We need everyone to file their own unique response—please do not just copy and paste. Use the information below to help build your case:

Attack Vector 1: The "Economic Prong" Sham

To get an import ban from the ITC, a company must prove they are a "Significant Domestic Industry." This requires "significant employment of labor or capital." We need to expose that the Complainants fail this test:

-Skeletal Workforce: Alien Rides operates with a workforce of five or fewer employees. This is a small retail shop, not a protected national industry. The ITC has rejected cases before (like 337-TA-850) because the U.S. labor footprint was "insignificant" compared to the volume of imported goods.
-Infrastructure Deficit: They operate out of a shared retail facility of less than 5,000 square feet. To safely warehouse and fulfill a national supply of EUCs, industry standards require 20,000+ square feet for manufacturing and

warehousing. They physically lack the capacity to support the market they are trying to lock down.
-Total Market Abandonment: Their own website consistently lists flagship models as "Sold Out" or "Not in Stock." A company that cannot supply its own niche customers cannot claim to be a domestic industry capable of serving the entire American public if a ban is granted.

Attack Vector 2: The Technical Lie (Recessed vs. Surface-Mounted)

The core of their case relies on U.S. Patent No. 8,807,250. However, the scope of this patent is extremely narrow and does not apply to modern wheels:

-The "Recessed" Requirement: In the landmark ruling for Case 24-1010 (November 14, 2025), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit determined that for a wheel to infringe the '250 patent, the leg pads must be set into a cavity (recessed) within the housing.
-Modern Wheel Design: Virtually every wheel from Begode, LeaperKim, InMotion, and Leaperkim use optional, surface-mounted modular pad systems using velcro.
-The Difference: These pads are mounted on top of the shell, often as aftermarket accessories. The Federal Circuit has already ruled that these integrated designs do not infringe the '250 patent. Filing this at the ITC is a bad-faith attempt to "forum shop" and circumvent that high court decision.

Instructions: How to File Your "Standing Challenge"

We have until close of business on February 3, 2026, to flood the docket with these technical facts.
1. Log In: Go to edis.usitc.gov and create a free account.
2. Submit Document: Click "Submit Documents."
3. Use These Settings:
-Investigation Type: Sec 337
-Investigation Num: 3877 (Certain Gyro-Stabilized Electric Unicycles)
-Phase: Violation
-Document Type: Comments/Response to Comments (This is the critical move).
4. Security: Select "Public."
5. Your Letter: Write 1–2 pages in your own words. Challenge their standing using the facts above (Staff of < 5, warehouse < 5k sq ft, and the Federal Circuit's "recessed" ruling).
6. Attach Proof: Take a photo of your wheel and its pads. State clearly: "This wheel uses an optional, surface-mounted system that was already cleared of infringement by the Federal Circuit in Case 24-1010." Save as a .pdf file and submit.

We have one shot to show the ITC that this entire investigation is a bad-faith attempt that lacks any legitimate domestic basis. EUC manufacturers rely very

heavily on the American market for survival. If we don't act now, one of two things will happen: The cost of every wheel will skyrocket due to immense sums of money being handed to the Complainants, or the global EUC industry will collapse entirely – and soon.

Attached is my own submission, for reference.

dn_3877_notice01212026sgl.pdf
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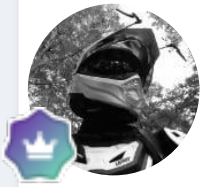
Comments_on_Complaint_DN3877_Ne...
Unavailable

Edited April 28 by RagingGrandpa
(added quote)

Quote 1 4 5

Replies	Created	Last Reply
299	**Jan 28**	**May 28**



Cerbera

Well that's totally mental if it succeeds. I thought Shane Chen and Alien Rides were good guys ?!

Why would they pull this shit now, when it's been fine for at least 10 years ?

Posted January 28

Quote

WheelGoodTime
Posted January 28

Submitting a formal protest to a government agency like the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is a precise process. The **Electronic Document Information System (EDIS)** is the official portal, and because it is a legal repository, it has very specific "rules of the road" that can be difficult to navigate.

Follow these step-by-step instructions to ensure your commentary is officially received and considered for **Docket No. 3877**.

Phase 1: Registration (Mandatory)

You cannot submit anonymously. You must have a registered account to file.

1. **Go to the Portal:** Visit edis.usitc.gov.
2. **Register:** Click the **"Register"** link on the homepage.
3. **User Profile:** Fill out the required fields.
    - **Association:** If you are an individual rider, select **"None/Other"** or **"Not Listed"** for Firm/Organization.
    - **Email:** Use a permanent email address; you will receive your official filing receipt here.
4. **Activate:** Check your email for an activation link to verify your account.

Phase 2: Preparing Your Document

The ITC will reject submissions that do not meet their technical standards.

- **Format:** Your document **MUST** be a PDF. The system will not accept Word or image files.
- **Length:** Your statement is limited to **five (5) pages** maximum, including any attachments.
- **Header:** Place **"Docket No. 3877"** in bold at the top of the first page so it is indexed correctly.
- **The "Big Five" Content:** To be legally valid, your PDF must address these 5 points:
    1. **Usage:** How you use EUCs (e.g., green commuting).

2. **Welfare:** Any safety or environmental concerns (e.g., a ban forces people into cars).
3. **Competitive Articles:** Are there any U.S.-made alternatives? (Currently, there are no high-performance EUCs made in the USA).
4. **Replacement Capacity:** Does the complainant (Alien Rides) have the space/funding to replace the entire U.S. supply? (Reference the <4,000 sq ft facility vs the required 20,000+ sq ft).
5. **Consumer Impact:** How a ban harms riders (e.g., immediate 30% price hikes or no parts).

Phase 3: The Electronic Filing (The "Hard" Part)

- Log in at **edis.usitc.gov**
- Click **Submission** → **File a New Document**
- Investigation Type: **Sec 337**
- Investigation Number: **3877** → Click Search → Select "Certain Gyro-Stabilized Electric Unicycles"
- Phase: **Violation**
- Document Type: **Comments/Response to Comments**
- CBI/BPI?: **No**
- Confidential?: **No**
- Title: **"Comments on Complaint - [Your Name]"**
- Party Served?: **No**
- Click **Add Files** → Select your PDF
- Click **Submit**
- Check email for confirmation receipt

Phase 4: Confirmation

- **The Receipt:** You will see a confirmation screen with a **6-digit Document ID**. **Capture a screenshot of this.**
- **The Email:** You will receive an automated email from the USITC confirming the filing. Keep this for your records as proof of submission.

CRITICAL DEADLINE: All submissions must be received by the close of business on **February 3, 2026**. Filing even 15 minutes late can result in your testimony being excluded from the record.

Suggested Commentary:

To ensure the International Trade Commission (ITC) considers your statement, it **must** address the five specific "Public Interest" criteria. **Statements that are just emotional or generic "don't ban this" messages are often disregarded.**

Below are the templates you requested, formatted to meet the specific requirements of **Docket No. 3877**.

Template 1: For Individual Riders / Consumers

Target Audience: Commuters, hobbyists, and environmental advocates.

> **TO:** The Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission **RE:** Public Interest Comments regarding Certain Gyro-Stabilized Electric Unicycles, Docket No. 3877
>
> **I. Introduction:** I am a U.S. resident and consumer who utilizes an electric unicycle (EUC) for [daily commuting/last-mile transit/recreation].
>
> **II. Public Interest Factors:**
>
> - **(i) Usage in the U.S.:** I use my EUC as a primary mode of green, zero-emission transportation. These devices provide critical "last-mile" connectivity to public transit and reduce urban traffic congestion.
> - **(ii) Public Health, Safety, and Welfare:** A ban on these imports would force me and thousands of others back into gas-powered vehicles, increasing the carbon footprint and removing a safety-tested micro-mobility option from the market.
> - **(iii) Competitive Articles:** There are currently **no** high-performance electric unicycles manufactured within the United States that can serve as a viable substitute for the models targeted in this complaint.
> - **(iv) Capacity to Replace:** The complainants (Inventist and Alien Rides) operate out of a shared retail/repair facility of less than 4,000 square feet. This infrastructure is physically insufficient to store or manufacture the thousands of units required to satisfy U.S. consumer demand.
> - **(v) Impact on Consumers:** An exclusion order would

create an artificial monopoly, leading to an immediate 30% or higher increase in consumer costs and a total lack of spare parts, effectively rendering existing vehicles unserviceable and unsafe.

III. Conclusion: I urge the Commission to deny the requested exclusion order to protect consumer choice and green transit.

Template 2: For EUC Vendors / Repair Shops

Target Audience: Independent dealers, service centers, and small business owners.

TO: The Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission **RE:** Public Interest Comments regarding Certain Gyro-Stabilized Electric Unicycles, Docket No. 3877

I. Introduction: [Company Name] is a U.S. small business specializing in the retail and service of electric unicycles. An exclusion order would result in the immediate closure of our business and the loss of [X] American jobs.

II. Public Interest Factors:

- **(iii) Competitive Articles:** As a professional dealer of [X], I can verify that there are no domestic (U.S.-made) alternatives to the targeted imports from Begode, InMotion, LeaperKim, KingSong, or Nosfet.
- **(iv) Capacity to Replace:** To support the U.S. market, a manufacturer requires a logistics and warehousing footprint exceeding 20,000 square feet per brand. The complainant's shared 4,000 sq ft facility lacks the operational scale to fulfill national demand. Granting a ban would leave the market entirely unserved.
- **(v) Impact on Consumers:** A ban would prevent U.S. owners from accessing critical safety repairs and batteries. Furthermore, the Nov 14, 2025, Court of Appeals ruling (Case 24-1010) already established that modern recessed designs are non-infringing. Pursuing a ban against these products harms the integrity of the U.S. retail market.

III. Conclusion: The Commission should decline to institute this investigation to protect U.S. small businesses and the competitive market.

Template 3: For Accessory Manufacturers (USA & Global)

Target Audience: Makers of pads, fairings, safety gear, and custom battery boxes.

> **TO:** The Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission **RE:** Public Interest Comments regarding Certain Gyro-Stabilized Electric Unicycles, Docket No. 3877
>
> **I. Introduction:** [Company Name] is a manufacturer of safety accessories and performance components for electric unicycles. Our business is a secondary industry that relies entirely on the healthy importation of the vehicles named in this complaint.
>
> **II. Public Interest Factors:**
>
> - **(iii) Competitive Articles:** Our products are designed specifically for the imported models from the "Big Five" manufacturers. If these imports are banned, there are no U.S.-made vehicles for which our products can be adapted.
> - **(iv) Capacity to Replace:** The complainants have zero manufacturing capability for the scale required. A U.S. import ban would lead to the insolvency of global manufacturers, which in turn destroys the global accessory ecosystem.
> - **(v) Impact on Consumers:** This ban would result in a "monopoly tax" that would increase the cost of this entire sport/industry by 30%, making specialized safety gear and performance upgrades economically unfeasible for most riders.
>
> **III. Conclusion:** Protect the global innovation ecosystem by denying this request for a General Exclusion Order.

Filing Reminder

- **Format:** Must be a **PDF**.
- **Length:** Maximum **5 pages**.
- **Deadline:** Close of business, **February 3, 2026**.
- **Case No:** Docket No. 3877.